

# South Dakota National Guard

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July 28, 2015

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **196th Regiment trains collectively in the Black Hills**

By Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann  
SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY, S.D. - The South Dakota Army National Guard's 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) brought its two subordinate battalions together to train Soldiers in the Black Hills, July 11-24.

The 196th RTI oversees 1st Battalion, based at Fort Meade, which trains officer candidates through an eight-week leadership course to develop Army officers, and 2nd Battalion, based in Sioux Falls, which provides instruction in military occupation specialties such as motor transport operator (88M) and fire direction specialist (13P) for the artillery rocket systems.

For the first time, the battalions and their programs were taught concurrently in one location.

"We brought the regiment and battalions together to achieve a unity of effort within the staff," said Lt. Col. Wyatt Hansen, 196th RTI deputy commander.

"It helps our staff exercise their roles in having command and control over two large training events - OCS and the MOS courses," said 196th Regiment Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Grabow. "Combining the regiment and two battalions into one location creates a synergy between us."

Not only did the regiment create a positive environment among the staff, but the training was cost effective, said Hansen.

"From a regimental staff perspective, our main focus is to make sure our battalions can do their mission with less resources than we had last year," said Hansen. "Combining the two battalions into one location provided savings in areas such as meal contracts and transportation."

The Soldiers learning a new military occupation specialty are also benefitting from the training opportunities the Black Hills offers.

"The Black Hills provide the motor transport operators with an off-road rugged terrain along with elevation changes and curvy roads," said Grabow. "I'm really excited about an event coming up for our fire direction specialists that we haven't done before. At the end of the course we are going to send the students by helicopter to Camp Guernsey, Wyoming, to shadow the 147th Field Artillery fire missiles down range."

Bringing the regiment and battalions together exceeded expectations, said Hansen.

“The unity of effort and action between the regiment and battalions staffs was outstanding,” said Col. Tim Moran, 196th Regiment commander. “We were able to provide a training venue that enhanced the training experience for all the participating students. We challenged ourselves as professional NCOs and officers and are better for it. We can now truly call ourselves an institute of excellence.”

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High resolution photos are available at [www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard](http://www.flickr.com/photos/southdakotationalguard)



**150716-Z-ZZ999-045:** U.S. Army Sgt. Apolonio Hernandez from the Washington Army National Guard drives a medium tactical vehicle during the motor transport operator class offered by the South Dakota Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) on the Bogus Gym Road in the Black Hills of S.D., July 16, 2015. The course is one of 23 offered throughout the United States where Soldiers learn basic driving skills on tactical vehicles. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Pvt. Joshua Quandt/Released)



**150710-Z-ZZ999-061:** U.S. Army instructor points to an objective on a topographical map of West Camp Rapid in Rapid City, S.D., during Officer Candidate School conducted by the South Dakota Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) July 10, 2015. Soldiers develop their leadership skills during the eight-week program to earn their commission as second lieutenants in the Army National Guard. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Pvt. Joshua Quandt/Released)



**150712-Z-ZZ999-168:** A U.S. Army officer candidate and cadre member participate in water survival training during officer candidate school class offered by the South Dakota Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) at West Camp Rapid in Rapid City, S.D., July 16, 2015. Soldiers develop their leadership skills during the eight-week program to earn their commission as second lieutenants in the Army National Guard. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Pvt. Joshua Quandt/Released)



**150716-Z-ZZ999-270:** Officer candidates participate in a foot patrol training exercise during officer candidate school class offered by the South Dakota Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) at West Camp Rapid in Rapid City, S.D., July 16, 2015. Soldiers develop their leadership skills during the eight-week program to earn their commission as second lieutenants in the Army National Guard. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Pvt. Joshua Quandt/Released)



**150711-Z-ZZ999-114:** U.S. Army Sgt. Brice Hamburg, South Dakota Army National Guard, briefs Soldiers attending the Multiple Launch Rocket System Fire Direction Specialist course offered by the South Dakota Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, S.D., July 11, 2015. The four-week course is one of six offered throughout the U.S. where Soldiers learn how to collect and transmit data, operate communication systems and plot firing points for artillery rocket systems. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Pvt. Joshua Quandt/Released)

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